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Serial No. 10/059,011
Atty Docket No. AUS920010514US1

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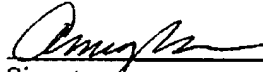
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

In re application of Michael Wayne Brown, et al. Serial No.: 10/059,011 Filed: 01/28/2002 Title: DISPLAYING TRANSPARENT RESOURCE AIDS Atty Docket: AUS920010514US1	: Before the Examiner: : Greg Cunningham : Group Art Unit: 2676 : Intellectual Property Law Department : International Business Machines Corp. : 11400 Burnet Road : Austin, Texas 78758
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Amy Pattillo


Signature

6/14/2004
Date

APPEAL BRIEF

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This present Brief is submitted in triplicate in support of the Appeal in the above-referenced application pursuant to a Notice of Appeal filed April 14, 2004 as required by 37 C.F.R. 1.192. This is an appeal of a final rejection dated March 11, 2004 of Claims 1-27 of application serial number 10/059,011, filed January 28, 2002.

I. Real Party in Interest

The real party in interest in the present application is the Assignee, International Business Machines Corporation of Armonk, New York, as evidenced by the Assignment set forth at Reel 012574, Frame 0091.

06/17/2004 KHARLING 00000001 090447 10059011 II. Related Appeals and Interferences

01 FC:1402 330.00 DA Related US Patent Application Serial No. 10/059,088 is concurrently pending

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appeal. There are no additional Appeals or Interferences known to Appellant, Appellant's legal representative, or assignee which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

III. Status of Claims

Claims 1-27 are pending. Claims 1-27 stand finally rejected as noted by the Examiner in the Examiner's Action dated March 11, 2004. Claims 9, 19, and 26 stand objected to. Claims 1-27 are being appealed. These rejected claims which form the basis of this appeal are reproduced in the attached Appendix.

IV. Status of Amendments

A proposed amendment after final rejection was presented to the Examiner and a conference between the Examiner and Appellants' Representative Amy Pattillo was held on April 6, 2004. The Examiner stated that the proposed amendment would require a further search and therefore would not be entered. Appellants did not file the proposed amendment.

V. Summary of the Invention

As described in the present specification at p. 10, lines 3-5, the present invention disclosed a method, system, and computer program for transparently displaying monitored resource status in response to an initiating event. A transparent display of monitored resources in the form of a transparent resource aid may include text, graphics, video, and other displayable objects displayed such that other displayed objects are not obscured (page 10, lines 5-8). Monitored resources may include the function of any part of a computer system or network, including both hardware resources, such as memory, and software resources (page 10, lines 14-23). An initiating event may include a user directing a cursor over a resource sensitive region, where responsive to detecting a cursor passing over the resource sensitive region, resourced monitored in association with the displayable object are transparently displayed (page 11, lines 7-13).

One advantage of the invention is that transparent resource aids, presenting current resource usage in association with a particular displayable object, are dynamically

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displayed in a display area, such that the transparent resource aids do not obscure the view of other graphics displayed (page 6, lines 15-21). Another advantage of the invention is that transparent resource aids are presented in response to an initiating event, such as a user placing a cursor over a resource sensitive region, such that transparent resource aids are selectively displayed (page 6, lines 15-21).

In other embodiments, a dimensional height of a transparent resource aid may be adjusted to indicate a quantity associated with a monitored resource being described by the transparent resource aid (page 6, lines 26-29). In addition, in other embodiments, the performance of parts of a computer system may be monitored and the monitored information compiled for display in a transparent resource aid (page 6, lines 31-33). Alternatively, in other embodiments, a current transparency setting of a displayable object may be monitored, where the current transparency represents resource usage, and the monitored information compiled for display in a transparent resource aid (page 7, lines 1-5). Further, in other embodiments, a transparent resource aid may be displayed in the foreground or in the background (pages 11, lines 27 -33). In other embodiments, however, when a transparent resource aid is displayed in the background, the tinting of the background behind an associated displayable object may be adjusted to highlight the associated displayable object (page 12, lines 1-4).

VI. Issues Presented for Review

1. Is the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-8, 11-18, and 21-25 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by DeLeeuw (US Patent Number 6,353,450 B1) well founded?
2. Is the Examiner's rejection of claims 11 under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable under DeLeeuw in view of Bagnas (US Patent Number 5,805,163) well founded?

VII. Grouping of Claims

For purposes of this Appeal, claims 1-27 do not all stand or fall together. Group I claims include claims 1, 11, and 21 which all stand or fall together. Group II claims include claims 2-4, 7-8, 12-14, 17-18, 22, and 25 which all stand or fall

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together.

Group III claims include claims 5, 15, and 23 which all stand or fall together.

Group IV claims include claims 6, 16, and 24 which all stand or fall together.

Group V claims include claims 9, 19, and 26 which all stand or fall together.

Group VI claims include claims 10, 20, and 27 which all stand or fall together.

VIII. Argument

Groups I, II, III, IV

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-8, 11-18, and 21-25 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by DeLeeuw (US Patent Number 6,353,450 B1). "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed Cir. 1987). Furthermore the reference must be an enabling disclosure of each and every element as set forth in the claim. *In re Hoecksmas*, 158 USPQ 596, 600 (CCPA 1968); *In re LeGrive*, 133 USPQ 365, 372 (CCPA 1962). Because the Examiner does not show that DeLeeuw teaches each an every element of the claims 1-8, 11-18, and 21-25 or enables each and every element of these claims, these claims are not anticipated and thus the rejection is not well founded, and it should be reversed.

DeLeeuw discloses "a method for providing input data to a computer system" (DeLeeuw col. 1, lines 9-10). More specifically, Col. 4, lines 36-41 of DeLeeuw teach a method for providing input data as follows:

"In this example, the image of the user is captured by the video camera and rendered in a transparent manner to the display. The user then interacts with display objects, such as non-transparent application program icons, or transparent user interface elements, for example to provide input signals and events to the system."

Further, col. 4, lines 43-49 of DeLeeuw teach:

"a method of providing a transparent layer of display data signals

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(such as video data signals communicated by a video camera, for example) over the top of another layer of display data signals on a computer display so that the user may see both layers clearly and substantially simultaneously, and interact with user interface elements in the transparent layer.”

In addition, Col. 3, lines 22-26 point out that by using the method of DeLeeuw, the user can interact with the computer system, “much as the user does now with a mouse or other selection device.”

Group I

Each of the pending claims in Group I contain the limitation of “placing a transparent resource aid within said display area in association with said at least one displayable object”. In the final office action, the Examiner claims that placing a transparent resource aid is taught by combining two functions of DeLeeuw. In particular, the Examiner equates a “resource aid” with DeLeeuw’s teachings of (1) helping the computer vision components isolate and identify objects to be recognized as input event generators (through the placement of colored dots attached to the user’s hands or fingers or placed on specific objects, such as fingers and thumbs) (DeLeeuw, col. 4, lns 26-33) (2) so that the user may see both layers clearly and substantially simultaneously, and interact with the user interface elements in the transparent layer (DeLeeuw, col. 4, lns. 47-49). [Final Office Action dated 3/11/2004, p. 2-3] Furthermore, the Examiner states that the “user image rendered in a transparent manner to the display” corresponds to the claim element of “transparent resource aid within display area.” [Final Office Action, p. 8] Thus, the Examiner equates the “resource aid” with the “user image” transparent displayed.

Applicants assert that DeLeeuw merely teaches a method for allowing a user to provide input data to a computer system through a transparent video image layer that replaces a mouse or other selection device. The transparent user image of DeLeeuw does not teach a “transparent resource aid”. First, DeLeeuw does not teach a “transparent resource aid” because the mere rendering of an image in a display area in a transparent manner is a transparent layer, not a “transparent resource aid”. Second, DeLeeuw does

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not teach a "transparent resource aid" because in the claims of Groups I, II, III, and IV, the "transparent resource aid" is displayed responsive to an initiating event; in DeLeeuw, the colored dots are characterized as input event generators, not output results. Third, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, the combination in DeLeeuw of colored dots to help the computer vision components identify inputs and enabling the user to see both layers clearly and substantially simultaneously merely teach a transparent layer that replaces a mouse or other selection device, not a transparent resource aid. Fourth, and importantly, the Examiner does not show what portion of DeLeeuw's teaching corresponds to the term "resource" in "transparent resource aid".

In addition, Applicants note that the Examiner has not examined the claims of Group I in view of the definition of "transparent resource aid" provided in the specification and that for the above reasons, DeLeeuw does not teach "transparent resource aid" as defined in the specification. In particular, throughout the specification, Applicants have clearly defined a "transparent resource aid" as a display object which provides information about the hardware or software resources monitored in association with the displayable object with which the transparent resource aid is associated (Brown et al. p. 10, lines 14-29). During patent examination, the pending claims must be given the broadest reasonable interpretation consistent with the specification. MPEP 2173.05(a). When the specification states the meaning that a term in the claim is intended to have, the claim is examined using that meaning, in order to achieve a complete exploration of the applicant's invention and its relations to the prior art. MPEP 2173.05(a). In addition, an Applicant is free to be his or her own lexicographer. MPEP 2173.05(a).

Each of the pending claims in Groups I, II, III, and IV claims contain the limitation of "placing a transparent resource aid within said display area in association with said at least one displayable object". In particular, Groups II, III, and IV contain claims that are dependent upon the claims in Group I and therefore contain the limitations of the claims in Group I. Consequently, Applicants urge that DeLeeuw fails to teach at least one element, including the element of "placing a transparent resource aid in said display area in association with said at least one displayable object", in each of the Groups I, II, III, and IV claims. Therefore, reversal of the Examiner's rejection is

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respectfully requested.

Group III

Next, with regard to Group III, each of the pending claims in the Group III claims contains the limitations of “monitoring performance of a plurality of parts of a computer system” and “compiling information for said transparent resource aid from said monitored performance for a selection from among said plurality of parts.”

The Examiner cites DeLeeuw as teaching that “the physical movement activity to create a desired result while observing the user’s reflected image is very natural and intuitive for users ...it is typically easy for users to use either a dominant or non-dominant hand or both hands to perform operations while viewing their reflected image” is equivalent to the element of “monitoring performance of a plurality of parts of a computer system” as is observing or monitoring the results of mouse movement or mouse clicking on objects or icons [Final Office Action, p. 9]. Further, the Examiner concludes that the “physical movement activity to create a desired result while observing the user’s reflected image inherently gives a rough measure of movement tracking, speed, proper direction performance, and response delay, all inherent in a computer system. [Final Office Action, p. 9]

Applicants respectfully assert that DeLeeuw, merely teaches tracking the movement of a user’s hands and fingers observed by an input device, but does not teach monitoring the performance of the input system described in DeLeeuw, which could be considered a part of a computer system. In particular, Applicants respectfully assert that a human observing the movement of hands and fingers to monitor a rough measure of movement tracking in a display interface is not analogous to a computer system monitoring the actual performance of the input device.

In addition, Applicants respectfully note that the Examiner does not point out, nor does DeLeeuw teach the element of “compiling information for said transparent resource aid from said monitored performance for a selection from among said plurality of parts.” The present invention teaches monitoring the performance of multiple computer parts, such as hardware and software, but only displaying a selection of the monitored performance characteristics in a transparent resource aid in association with a displayable

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object (page 10, lines 14-23).

Therefore, Applicants urge that DeLeeuw fails to teach at least one element in each of the Group III claims. Consequently, reversal of the Examiner's rejection is respectfully requested.

Group IV

Next, with regard to Group IV, each of the pending claims in the Group IV claims contains the limitations of "monitoring a plurality of transparency settings for each of a plurality of displayable objects displayed within said user interface" and "compiling information for said transparency resource aid from said monitored transparency settings." Specifically, with respect to claim 6, the Examiner cites DeLeeuw col. 3, lns. 11-42, col. 4, lns. 23-65, and col. 14, lns. 40-45 as teaching the method of claim 6. DeLeeuw col. 14, lns. 40-45 teaches "Next at block 544, initialization parameters for the video renderer with transparency filter may be set. For example, the desired level of opacity may be set for future video data signal processing. Other initialization parameters include mirroring settings and interleaving patterns." Applicants respectfully propose that this portion of DeLeeuw only teaches allowing a user to set opacity and other levels for a transparency filter. DeLeeuw does not teach monitoring the transparency that displayable objects are set to and then updating information for the transparency resource aid based on the transparency levels of different displayable objects. In contrast, the specification describes that the transparency settings of a displayable object may represent a performance characteristic of a resource of the computer system associated with the displayable object (page 10, lines 25-29). By monitoring transparency settings of the displayable object, performance of a resource associated with the displayable object can be determined and compiled for use in a transparency resource aid to show resource usage in association with the displayable object.

In addition, in the Final Office Action, the Examiner states that DeLeeuw teaches the element of "monitoring a plurality of transparency settings for each of a plurality of displayable objects displayed within said user interface" from the user making the transparent video image of the user's hand move over a transparent user interface

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element, wherein a component analyzing the video stream detects the action and may enact changes to the element's appearance to indicate an activation or selection of the element (Final Office Action, p. 10 citing DeLeeuw col. 3, line 43 – col. 4, line 3). The Examiner further states that “element activation in this manner may also be used to send control messages to the operating system or an application program (Final Office Action, p. 10). In addition, the Examiner concludes that “while observing the user's reflected image, the user collects “compiling” sufficient information on transparent interface elements, selected locations, existing display components for element activation.” (Final Office Action, p. 10). Applicants respectfully note that DeLeeuw only teaches an input interface with a transparent layer added to a display interface to reflect a user's video image and where movements by the user's video image may cause selections of objects displayed in another layer, as is highlighted by analyzing user inputs for element activation. DeLeeuw does not, however, teach monitoring the transparency settings of multiple displayable objects and then updating information for the transparency resource aid based on the transparency levels of different displayable objects. Further, Applicants respectfully note that even if the user “compiles” information on transparent interface elements, selection locations, and existing display components, the Examiner does not point out where DeLeeuw teaches how the user would compile the information for the transparent resource aid, which the Examiner claims is the transparently displayed “user image” with reference to the claims in Group I.

Therefore, Applicants urge that DeLeeuw fails to teach at least one element in each of the Group IV claims. Consequently, reversal of the Examiner's rejection is respectfully requested.

Group V

Next, with regard to Group V, each of the pending claims in the Group V claims is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants appreciate allowance of the claims in Group V if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim, however, continue to assert that the claims of Group V are dependent upon base claims in Group I

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that should be allowed.

Distinguishing the Groups

Responsive to the requirement under 37 CFR 1.192(c)(8)(iii), Applicants assert that the claims in Groups I-VI are separately patentable.

First, the claims in Groups I-V are rejected under 35 USC 102. The claims in Group I are independent claims upon which all the other claims are dependent, and are therefore separately patentable as independent claims. Groups II, III, IV, V and VI contains claims that are dependent on the claims in Group I.

The dependent claims in Groups III and IV are each separately patentable from the dependent claims in Groups I, II, and V because the claims in Groups III and IV each limit the type of resources monitored and displayed in the transparent resource aid. The claims in Group III describe monitoring resources by directly monitoring the parts of the computer system and the claims in Group IV describe monitoring resources by indirectly monitoring the transparency of displayable objects, where the transparency of the displayable objects may indicate the usage of a resource.

The claims in Group V are separately patentable from the claims in Groups I-IV because the claims in Group V are objected to by the Examiner, and thus would be allowed if written in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim. As such, the claims in Group V have already been identified as separately patentable by the Examiner.

The claims in Group VI are rejected under 35 USC 103 which is a separate ground of rejection from the claims in Groups I-V.

Group VI

Claims 10, 20, and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over DeLeeuw (US Patent Number 6,353,450B1) in view of Bagnas (US Patent Number 5,805,163). Applicants first note the above proposition that each of the claims in Group I are not taught by DeLeeuw, and therefore as dependent claims of allowable subject matter, claims 10, 20, and 27 of Group VI should also be allowed.

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Applicants second note that the Examiner carries the burden of proving a prima facie case of obviousness for a 103(a) rejection. Because the Examiner does not carry the burden of proving a prima facie case of obviousness for claims 10, 20, and 27 of Group VI, the rejection is not well founded, and it should be reversed.

In establishing a prima facie case of obviousness under 103(a), the combined prior art references must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.3d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed Cir. 1991). The Examiner suggests that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to apply “placing and monitoring transparent user interface elements in a live video stream as a method for user input” in combination with darkened transparent window overlapping an opaque window” disclosed by Bagnas to teach Claim 10. [First Office Action dated 9/25/2003, p. 6] Further the Examiner notes that the motivation to combine the teachings “would provide for a need for transparent windows and controls in window environments as revealed by Bagnas in col. 1, lns. 55-65.” [First Office Action, p. 6]

Each claim in Group VI includes the element of “placing said transparent resource aid in a background of said display area in association with said at least one displayable object, wherein said transparent resource aid is darkened to draw attention to said at least one displayable object.” Applicants respectfully propose that the combined references do not teach or suggest the claimed limitation. First, the Examiner does not show how DeLeeuw or Bagnas teach or suggest a “transparent resource aid”. The Examiner states that DeLeeuw teaches a transparent user interface as a method for *user input*, not as a method for displaying current resource usage associated with a displayable object. In contrast, the present invention teaches that when a “transparent resource aid” is placed in the display area, the “transparent resource aid” displays information about resource usage (Brown et al. page 10, lines 3-23). Second, the Examiner does not show how DeLeeuw or Bagnas teach or suggest darkening the “transparent resource aid” to draw attention to a displayable object. Bagnas col. 3, lns 57-60 read as follows: “So that the display of window 30 through window 28 is not confusing, window 28 may be darkened as compared to the underlying screen components.” In contrast, the purpose of darkening the “transparent resource aid” in the present invention is “to draw attention to” a displayable object or as the specification describes “highlight” the displayable object.

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(Brown et al. page 12, lines 1-4). Applicants respectfully propose that Bagnas's teaching of darkening a transparent window does not teach or suggest darkening a transparent window for the purpose of highlighting an associated displayable object.

In conclusion, when DeLeeuw is combined with Bagnas, all that is taught is a transparent window input system that can be darkened as compared with underlying screen components. DeLeeuw combined with Bagnas does not teach the element placing said transparent resource aid in a background of said display area in association with said at least one displayable object, wherein said transparent resource aid is darkened to draw attention to said at least one displayable object." Therefore, Applicants respectfully propose that the Examiner does not meet the burden of showing the obviousness of making the combination because the claimed invention is not taught by combining the references. Consequently, reversal of the Examiner's rejection is respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

It is therefore respectfully requested that the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-8, 11-18, and 21-25 under 35 USC 102(b) be reversed. In addition, it is therefore respectfully requested that the Examiner's rejection of claims 10, 20, and 27 under 35 USC 103(a) be reversed. It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are patentable under 35 USC 102(b) and 103(a) and allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Please charge the fee of \$330.00 for submission of a Brief in Support of Appeal to IBM Corporation Deposit Account No. 09-0447. No additional filing fee is believed to be necessary; however, in the event that any additional fee is required, please charge it to IBM Corporation Deposit Account No. 09-0447.

Respectfully submitted,

 6/14/2004

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Appendix

1. A method for displaying resource aids in a display area, said method comprising the steps of:

displaying a user interface comprising at least one displayable object within a display area; and

responsive to an initiating event, placing a transparent resource aid within said display area in association with said at least one displayable object, such that said at least one displayable object is not obscured by said transparent resource aid.

2. The method for displaying resource aids in accordance with claim 1, said method further comprising the step of:

responding to said initiating event, wherein said initiating event is at least one of a cursor placement, an occurrence of a user-defined event, and a user input.

3. The method for displaying resource aid in accordance with claim 1, said method further comprising the step of:

responding to said initiating event, wherein said initiating event is a position of a cursor over a sensitive region of said displayable object.

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4. The method for displaying resource aids in accordance with claim 1, said method further comprising the steps of:

determining a graphical output format for said transparent resource aid;

adjusting a transparency of said transparent resource aid according to user transparency preferences;

determining a display position for said transparent resource aid; and

adjusting said transparency of said transparent resource aid according to said display position.

5. The method for displaying resource aids in accordance with claim 1, said method further comprising the steps of:

monitoring performance of a plurality of parts of a computer system; and

compiling information for said transparent resource aid from said monitored performance for a selection from among said plurality of parts.

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6. The method for displaying resource aids in accordance with claim 1, said method further comprising the steps of:

monitoring a plurality of transparency settings for each of a plurality of displayable objects displayed within said user interface; and

compiling information for said transparency resource aid from said monitored transparency settings.

7. The method for displaying resource aids in accordance with claim 1, said method further comprising the step of:

placing said transparent resource aid to maximize space remaining in said display area.

8. The method for displaying resource aids in accordance with claim 1, said method further comprising the step of:

placing said transparent resource aid, wherein said transparent resource aid comprises at least one from among text, graphics, video, and audio.

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9. The method for displaying resource aids in accordance with claim 1, said method further comprising the step of:

adjusting a visual indication of a dimensional height of said transparent resource aid to indicate a quantity associated with a monitored resource being described by said transparent resource aid.

10. The method for displaying resource aids in accordance with claim 1, said method further comprising the step of:

placing said transparent resource aid in a background of said display area in association with said at least one displayable object, wherein said transparent resource aid is darkened to draw attention to said at least one displayable object.

11. A system for displaying resource aids in a display area, said system comprising:

a graphical user interface;

means for displaying at least one displayable object within a display area of said graphical user interface; and

means responsive to an initiating event, for placing a transparent resource aid within said display area in association with said at least one displayable object.

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12. The system for displaying resource aids in accordance with claim 11, wherein said initiating event is at least one of a cursor placement, an occurrence of a user-defined event, and a user input.

13. The system for displaying resource aid in accordance with claim 11, wherein said initiating event is a position of a cursor over a sensitive region of said at least one displayable object.

14. The system for displaying resource aids in accordance with claim 11, said system further comprising:

means for determining a graphical output format for said transparent resource aid;

means for adjusting a transparency of said transparent resource aid according to user transparency preferences;

means for determining a display position for said transparent resource aid; and

means for adjusting said transparency of said transparent resource aid according to said display position.

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15. The system for displaying resource aids in accordance with claim 11, said system further comprising:

means for monitoring performance of a plurality of parts of a computer system;
and

means for compiling information for said transparent resource aid from said monitored performance for a selection from among said plurality of parts.

16. The system for displaying resource aids in accordance with claim 11, said system further comprising:

means for monitoring a plurality of transparency settings for each of a plurality of displayable objects displayed within said user interface; and

means for compiling information for said transparency resource aid from said monitored transparency settings.

17. The system for displaying resource aids in accordance with claim 11, said system further comprising:

means for placing said transparent resource aid to maximize space remaining in said display area.

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18. The system for displaying resource aids in accordance with claim 11, said system further comprising:

means for placing said transparent resource aid, wherein said transparent resource aid comprises at least one from among text, graphics, video, and audio.

19. The system for displaying resource aids in accordance with claim 11, said system further comprising:

means for adjusting a visual indication of a dimensional height of said transparent resource aid to indicate a quantity associated with a monitored resource being described by said transparent resource aid.

20. The system for displaying resource aids in accordance with claim 11, said system further comprising:

means for placing said transparent resource aid in a background of said display area in association with said at least one displayable object, wherein said transparent resource aid is darkened to draw attention to said at least one displayable object.

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21. A program for displaying resource aids in a display area, residing on a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means, said program comprising:

means for displaying at least one displayable object within a display area of a graphical user interface; and

means for controlling placement of a transparent resource aid within said display area in association with said at least one displayable object in response to an initiating event.

22. The program for displaying resource aids in accordance with claim 21, said program further comprising:

means for determining a graphical output format for said transparent resource aid;

means for adjusting a transparency of said transparent resource aid according to user transparency preferences;

means for determining a display position for said transparent resource aid; and

means for adjusting said transparency of said transparent resource aid according to said display position.

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23. The program for displaying resource aids in accordance with claim 21, said program further comprising:

means for monitoring performance of a plurality of parts of a computer system;
and

means for compiling information for said transparent resource aid from said monitored performance for a selection from among said plurality of parts.

24. The program for displaying resource aids in accordance with claim 21, said program further comprising:

means for monitoring a plurality of transparency settings for each of a plurality of displayable objects displayed within said user interface; and

means for compiling information for said transparency resource aid from said monitored transparency settings.

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25. The program for displaying resource aids in accordance with claim 21, said program further comprising:

means for controlling placement of said transparent resource aid to maximize space remaining in said display area.

26. The program for displaying resource aids in accordance with claim 21, said program further comprising:

means for adjusting a visual indication of a dimensional height of said transparent resource aid to indicate a quantity associated with a monitored resource being described by said transparent resource aid.

27. The program for displaying resource aids in accordance with claim 21, said program further comprising:

means for placing said transparent resource aid in a background of said display area in association with said at least one displayable object.